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FADLALLAH, Muh Husayn
49 TUFAYLI, Subhi al-

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Fadlallah Lauds Palestinians

LD222143 Tehran IRNA in English 1809 GMT
22 Dec 87

[Text] Beirut, Dec. 22, IRNA—The community of Lebanese ulema voiced full support for Palestinian Muslims' mass uprising against the Zionist regime in the occupied lands, in a ceremony held at a mosque in western sector of Beirut, Tuesday.

The participants applauded their Palestinian brethren urging them to step up their anti-Zionist uprising until ultimate liberation of holy Quds.

Prominent Lebanese alim [scholar] Al-'Allaman Sa'id Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah who addressed the gathering described Palestinian Muslims' struggles as a "new revolution".

Fadlallah said that compromising regimes ruling over Muslim states are attempting to quell the voices of their Muslim peoples by the so-called "strategic balance" plan. To this end, the Amman Arab summit vainly tried to implement the final stages of a treacherous plan aimed at reconciliation with the regime occupying holy Quds, he added.

He said that the ongoing struggle of Palestinian Muslims in the occupied lands has already sealed the doomed fate of such compromising moves.

The victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran (1979) coupled with the growing Islamic movement in Lebanon, Tunisia, and Egypt has inspired hope in the hearts of Muslims, strengthening their confidence in attaining victory over colonial and arrogant powers, noted Fadlallah.

The prominent Lebanese alim called on Palestinian Muslim strugglers to maintain their unity and resistance in the face of the Zionist occupiers.

Hizballah Reportedly Moves Hostages to Al-Biqā'
NC230746 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0615 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] According to security information, the Syrian rotation operations in West Beirut and Upper al-Matn were prompted by reports sent by Syrian intelligence to these two areas.

Our security correspondent has reported that Syrian special forces and paratrooper units have taken up sensitive positions in Beirut, especially in the airport area and the road leading to it, as well as around the Palestinian camps and in the areas of Al-Rawshah, Saqiyat al-Janzir, Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq, the hotels, Al-Musaytibah, and Al-Bastah.

New Syrian intelligence men have been brought to West Beirut. They have been provided with information about sympathetic Palestinian and Lebanese cells, as well as about Hizballah networks that operate from Beirut's southern suburb.

In Upper al-Matn, Hizballah members are transferring kidnapped Lebanese and non-Lebanese persons from the southern suburb to Al-Biqā', and vice versa.

The Syrian intelligence command in the north has sent reports to the central command in 'Anjar. The reports speak of increasing military operations against the Syrian forces in the area, especially in Tripoli and al-Minyah, and of new weapons that have been supplied to these areas recently through Iranian agents—a matter that requires precautionary measures.

Hizballah's Al-Tufayli on Hostages, Syria
NC230944 Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA
AL-DUWALI
in Arabic 21-27 Dec 87 pp 8, 9

[Interview with Muhammad Subhi al-Tufayli, Hizballah leader, by Subhi Mundhir Yaghi in Ba'labakk; date not given]

[Text] [Yaghi] Mediation between Tehran and Paris succeeded in bringing about the release of Vahid Gorji, the second man in the Iranian Embassy in Paris, in return for the release of two French hostages, Jean-Louis Normandin and Roger Auque. Where does "Hizballah" stand on the release of the hostages? Did it take part? Or did you carry out the orders of the Islamic Republic of Iran? And will the rest of the hostages be released later?

[Al-Tufayli] We have repeatedly pointed out that "Hizballah" has nothing to do with the issue of the hostages, and that it played no part whatsoever in this matter, either by taking hostages, by releasing them, or even by arranging negotiations about them.

[Yaghi] We take it from your answer that there is another "Islamic organization," different from "Hizballah," which is holding the hostages and taking orders from the Islamic Republic and that this organization released the two French hostages.

[Al-Tufayli] In "Hizballah" we are not interested in this matter. We know no more about the issue of the hostages, or the terms for their release, than everyone knows through the mass media!

[Yaghi] Shaykh Subhi, one of the hostages, said he believed that his kidnappers were Palestinian. How true is this?

[Al-Tufayli] I have no knowledge of this matter.

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[Yaghi] If you, in "Hizballah," were asked to take part in rescuing the hostages and securing their release, what would you say?

[Al-Tufayli] We have formerly been asked to seek the release of the hostages. We tried to render certain humanitarian services in this respect. However, when we felt that our intercession would be misinterpreted, we ceased to take any interest in this matter.

[Yaghi] Why do some say that relations between you and Syria have turned out badly? It was even said that you have been subjected to arrest by the Syrians, your home has been stormed, and so on. How true is this?

[Al-Tufayli] Hostile mass media talk about disputes between "Hizballah" and the Syrians and predict future differences. Some in media try to create a climate for differences through disseminating rumors and fictitious reports. There seems to be an international Israeli-Phalangist security plan to cause disagreements and a confrontation between "Hizballah" and the Syrians!! But such a thing is absolutely out of the question for a number of reasons, mainly because we certainly have interests in common with the Syrians and our goal is one and the same: to fight Israel and imperialism in the future. It is absolutely not in our interests to differ with the Syrians. Likewise, I do not believe the Syrians will find any point of dispute with us, since they well know that we constitute the actual spearhead in the war against Israel and its allies. Furthermore, we have no ambitions that run counter to Syrian plans!!

[Yaghi] What about the storming and arrest operations?

[Al-Tufayli] The storming and arrest operations by the Syrians which you talk about can be counted among the baseless reports.

[Yaghi] Is it possible that certain Syrian plans might emerge and might run counter to the march and ideas of Hizballah?

[Al-Tufayli] There is absolutely nothing of the sort in the air.

[Yaghi] Then what is your relationship with the Syrians like, and how far will it go?

[Al-Tufayli] Relations with the Syrians are satisfactory. But they should become even closer as long as Israel continues to exist in the area.

[Yaghi] But according to local and security circles, the Syrians are seeking to take the Shaykh 'Abdallah Bar-racks in Ba'labakk from "Hizballah"?

[Al-Tufayli] This is not true. This is a heresy fabricated by the media.

[Yaghi] But what would happen if the Syrians did ask for this?

[Al-Tufayli] The matter is not under discussion, and neither we nor the Syrians are thinking of it.

[Yaghi] Who in your opinion is behind the attacks on the Syrians in Beirut?

[Al-Tufayli] I believe that it is Israel's agents in East Beirut who are behind these operations. I believe that we should all confront this grotesque plot and put an end to it. This could be attained through a practical stand by all parties in the Islamic areas. We should identify the agents in our areas or confront the leaders of the sedition in the eastern parts. Anyone who believes that the matter does not concern him is mistaken.

[Yaghi] Is it true that the Syrians have detained the Lebanese who were released by Iran?

[Al-Tufayli] I read in the press yesterday that the Lebanese went to the Iranian Embassy in Damascus. But I have no other information.

[Yaghi] "The Islamic Movement," led by Shaykh Sadiq al-Musawi, recently released a statement in Beirut. The statement nominates Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Shaykh Sadiq al-Musawi, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, and Shaykh Mahdi Shams al-Din for president of an Islamic republic of Lebanon. What is your comment?

[Al-Tufayli] This is an insignificant, petty propaganda heresy. What counts is that there should be an Islamic republic, and not a Muslim president in an infidel regime.

[Yaghi] But what is the opinion of the shaykhs whose names were mentioned in the statement; namely, Fadlallah, Shams al-Din, and Sha'ban?

[Al-Tufayli] They have denied it.

[Yaghi] What would the status of the Christians, Jews, and other religious sects be under an Islamic republic?

[Al-Tufayli] There was an Islamic state in the area in the past in which there were non-Muslims. The latter even held key posts in the state. In Iran today, you can find Christians and Jews who are visible in public life and in the state. They would also enjoy respectable positions under Islam, unlike the picture drawn by some crusaders who claim that non-Muslims will be like slaves, neglected second-class citizens. This is an attempt to mobilize the people against the idea of Islamic justice.

[Yaghi] Is it true that Ahmad Khomeyni, the son of Imam Khomeyni, allowed a large number of Iranian Jews to emigrate to Palestine in return for arms deals with Israel?

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[Al-Tufayli] This is a lie, a lie.

[Yaghi] According to certain news media sources, Iranian officials have agreed with the Syrians to increase the fighters of the "Revolution Guards" in Ba'labakk. In return, Iran would sanction the release of one of the hostages.

[Al-Tufayli] I don't think this is true. The number of "Revolution Guards" has not increased and there is no need for it to be increased.

[Yaghi] Iran's "Revolution Guards" came to Lebanon during the Israeli invasion in 1982. It was said at the time that they came to fight the Israelis, but so far they have never participated in any action against the Israelis.

[Al-Tufayli] They came at first to fight the Israelis, but then the war between the Israelis and Syrians stopped and they could not take part. A large number of them subsequently returned to Iran. Some brothers stayed behind to help in the training, preparation, and education of the Lebanese Muslims. Their role is to teach the young Lebanese the lessons of the Islamic revolution and provide them with the military expertise they will need to fight Israel.

[Yaghi] Once, in a speech, you said that there is Iranian assistance for the "Islamic resistance" in Lebanon. However, an Iranian official (the imam's representative) who was asked about your statement declined to confirm it. What do you have to say about that?

[Al-Tufayli] Maybe he thought it would be better not to answer, but we fight Israel with the blessing and support of the Islamic revolution.

[Yaghi] Isn't there any coordination between the "Islamic resistance," the Palestinian resistance, and the "Lebanese national resistance?"

[Al-Tufayli] So far there has been no such coordination. Yesterday, we addressed a statement to all the groups which raise the slogan of fighting Israel. We called on them to engage in some coordination to tackle future eventualities and Israeli threats, particularly east of Sidon.

[Yaghi] It is being said, however, that you hold frequent meetings with Fatah—the Revolutionary Copuncil (the Abu Nidal group) and that you coordinate with them in military and security matters.

[Al-Tufayli] So far there has been no coordination between us and any of the Palestinian groups in military or security-related matters. We sometimes confer with the Palestinian leaders opposed to Yasir 'Arafat and his deviant line, but this is merely to exchange political views.

[Yaghi] What is the purpose of the recent escalation of "Islamic resistance" operations?

[Al-Tufayli] The purpose is to liberate Palestine and south Lebanon.

[Yaghi] Shortly before my visit to you, the "Islamic resistance" fighters undertook a naval mission against Israeli gunboats in Al-Zahrani. Would you tell us about this operation?

[Al-Tufayli] Several boats were used in the attack. They ambushed the Israeli patrol and surprised it at close range with a salvo of missiles, as an "Islamic resistance" statement said. Our kinfolk in the south were able to watch the battle and they saw the Israeli vessel as it burst into flames and sank.

[Yaghi] A contradiction has been noted between your statement and that of the Israelis on the operation.

[Al-Tufayli] It is true that the Israeli statement on the operation differs from that issued by the "Islamic resistance." Yet in its statement, the "Islamic resistance" described the whole operation, while the Israelis spoke about the ship which was hit during the battle, ignoring the one which was sunk.

[Yaghi] Do you not agree with me that this military operation, which was conducted by the "Islamic resistance," coincides with intensified Israeli threats to retaliate for the "Qiryat Shemona" operation which was conducted by Palestinians, and that this implies that there is no fear of Zionist "boastfulness"?

[Al-Tufayli] This operation, like all our anti-Israeli operations, is not subject to political circumstances. Rather, it follows a military program. There is no political consideration that is more favorable for conducting operations against Israel than the liberation of Palestine. The fact that the operation was carried out in this particular situation, after the Amman and the Reagan-Gorbachev summits and amid Israeli threats in the wake of the Qibyah operation, gives it a special significance. It means that the men of the resistance are performing their task regardless of all that commotion, that they are eager to encounter the Israelis on the battlefield, and that the talk about an Israeli invasion, or operations, makes them feel they are getting nearer to their chosen goal—dealing more effectively with the enemy.

[Yaghi] What does Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli think of the Al-Khalisah (Qiryat Shemona) operation, which was carried out by Palestinians?

[Al-Tufayli] This operation should be a banner and a torch for all honest people and all those who take the liberation of Palestine as their slogan! It should remind those who try to climb onto Israel's bandwagon that

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among Muslims there are those who hold their heads up high in honesty and grandeur! We hope all young people will manage to take the course of the resistance as well.

[Yaghi] Going back to domestic politics, many names have been put forward for the Lebanese presidency. Whom do you prefer?

[Al-Tufayli, laughing] They are all the sons of Satan.

[Yaghi] Who is Hizballah's desired nominee, and what are his characteristics?

[Al-Tufayli] Under this corrupt regime, no one can be nominated. Taking part in the game of the presidential elections means taking part in establishing blasphemous injustice. Anyone who seeks the well-being of this persecuted people must seek to topple this regime.

[Yaghi] Internationally, we are not far from the Reagan-Gorbachev summit. How do you view that summit and its outcome?

[Al-Tufayli] This summit, like previous ones, will not be to the advantage of the peoples of the world. What happens in these summits is that the two superpowers determine their interests through games, acts of sedition, and wars which they provoke here and there, so that they may keep control, on the one hand, and maintain the balance of interests between them on the other. The result of this summit is likely to be that the oppressed will fall victim to wars in which they give their lives and blood for the sake of the two superpowers and their allies.